

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 128812

73

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO CINCPAC

DOD/ISA

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, AS, UK, XO

SUBJECT: DIEGO AND N.W. CAPE - COMMO ARRANGEMENTS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. WE HAVE RESPONDED TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY POL-MIL
MINISTER LANDAU'S QUERIES RE "POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
US/UK ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIEGO GARCIA AND US/AUSTRALIAN
ARRANGEMENTS FOR N.W. CAPE" WITH FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED
ANSWERS:

(A) Q: IN WHAT SENSE DOES ULTIMATE CONTROL OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA REST WITH THE UK?

A: DIEGO GARCIA IS PART OF THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN
TERRITORY (BIOT). AS SUCH, IT REMAINS UNDER BRITISH
CONTROL AND SOVEREIGNTY, NOTWITHSTANDING THE ESTABLISHMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 128812

OF A US NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY THERE. HOWEVER,

THIS IN NO WAY LIMITS US RIGHTS TO OPERATE AND CONTROL THE FACILITY, WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE A LINK IN US DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AND FURNISH IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT OF EITHER GOVERNMENT.

(B) Q: TO WHAT EXTENT IS US USE OF THE FACILITIES, EVEN IN AN EMERGENCY, DEPENDENT UPON A JOINT DECISION BETWEEN THE US AND THE UK GOVERNMENTS? DOES THE SENIOR BRITISH OFFICER AT DIEGO GARCIA HAVE IN ANY SENSE A VETO OVER US USE OF THE FACILITY?

A: THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO OPERATE THE FACILITY AND TO CONDUCT SUCH FUNCTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR ITS OPERATIONS. THIS RIGHT IS EXERCISED BY THE US COMMANDING OFFICER, EVEN IN AN EMERGENCY. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE ROYAL NAVY ELEMENT AT THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IS THE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ISLAND OF THE UK COMMISSIONER OF THE BIOT WITH RESPECT TO ALL MATTERS RELATING TO BIOT ADMINISTRATION, BUT FOR ALL OTHER MATTERS HE REPORTS TO THE US COMMANDING OFFICER. STATION OPERATIONS THEREFORE REMAIN UNDER US CONTROL.

(C) Q: DOES THE UK HAVE ACCESS TO US COMMUNICATIONS PASSING AT DIEGO GARCIA?

A: THE UK DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO US SECURE COMMUNICATIONS PASSING THROUGH THE FACILITY.

(D) Q: DO THE US AND UK HAVE SEPARATE COMMUNICATIONS ROOMS AT DIEGO GARCIA?

A: NO. THE UK IS SERVED BY THE U.S. COMMUNICATION CENTER.

(E) Q: ARE THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA RUN AS AN INTEGRATED UNIT, WITH US AND UK PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTING TO ITS JOINT MANNING, OR ARE THERE SEPARATE US AND UK TEAMS WHICH MAN THE FACILITIES ACCORDING TO WHICH NAVY IS USING THEM?

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 128812

A: THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA ARE RUN AS AN INTEGRATED UNIT WITH JOINT US/UK MANNING; HOWEVER, UK PERSONNEL DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.

2. COVERING NOTE EXPLAINED THAT ANSWERS APPLY TO CURRENT COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON DIEGO, AND ALSO CITED HMG'S FEBRUARY 5 RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION WHICH

INDICATED THAT USE OF EXPANDED FACILITY IN CIRCUMSTANCES
OTHER THAN NORMAL WOULD BE MATTER FOR USG/HMG JOINT
DECISION. IT WAS FURTHER NOTED THAT LATTER CONDITION,
PER AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT, WOULD APPLY TO MOVEMENTS OF
SHIPS/AIRCRAFT THAT WOULD BE USING PROPOSED SUPPORT
FACILITY AND NOT COMMO COMPONENT OF EXPANDED FACILITY.

3. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD PASS FOREGOING QUESTIONS AND
ANSWERS TO FCO AND ENDEAVOR TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HMG
RECEIVED SIMILAR QUERY AND, IF SO, HOW THEY RESPONDED. SISCO

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